

Next Board Meeting

Monday, February 3rd,
2014
7:00 P.M. at
TURTLE ROCK
COMMUNITY PARK
1 Sunnyhill Drive
Irvine, CA

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MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Well, the tree trimming is done, and the roof and gutter cleaning has begun. You probably got a notice about Professional Services doing some inspections. The Board has contracted with them to do annual inspections of our properties so that we can catch problems early and deal with them.

You will soon receive information about nominations for board positions. If you are interested in becoming more involved, check this out.

All the news services have been talking about the state's drought and about the possibility of water rationing this summer. Much of the planting we have done this year is with drought resistant plants. We also use recycled water in our landscape, so we hope we will be in pretty good shape.

Happy Valentine's Day. Go celebrate the day by doing something nice for someone!

For the Board,
Leslie Barnebey

Board of Directors _____

- President Leslie Barnebey
- Vice President Jim Malina
- Secretary Joyce Gwidt
- Treasurer Dave Anduri
- Director at Large Jim Flood

Management Company _____

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Vista View Newsletter _____

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Vistas Website: Please visit www.trvista.org/www.turtlerockvista.org for complete meeting minutes, back issues of the newsletter, and a lot of other wonderful information.

**DEADLINE for submissions to the March newsletter -
Saturday, February 15th**

Editor's Note

Thank you very much for your feedback on the latest issue of the Vista View. It is encouraging to know that the homeowners actually read and appreciate the newsletter. Still, there are things that we can do better. Please let us know if you have any ideas or comments.

Remember, it is YOUR newsletter. You make it better with your input. The newsletter team looks forward to hearing from you!

As always, unless otherwise stated, the responsibility for all articles lies with me, Sue Suesada.

Sue Suesada (mchanglegs@cox.net)

News and Announcements

Landscape Update

On January 23, the Vista landscape committee and Mike Murray of Harvest Landscape met with Dennis Chiotti, Landscape Maintenance Superintendent for City of Irvine. The committee has been meeting with Superintendent Chiotti semi-annually to review the areas of City property where Vista concerns intersect.



The first area reviewed was the residential side and the median of Hillgate. The City will be planting the ten feet at the curb (to the irrigation pipe) including the corner of Turtle Rock Drive with Cape Honeysuckle (ground cover with orange flowers) and honeysuckle. A eucalyptus tree overhanging Hillgate was determined to be dangerous and will be removed. The median will receive additional water in the form of bubblers for the trees and water for the ground cover.

The lawn area at Valley View near the Turtle Rock will be planted with trees in an effort to create a barrier to car damage to the lawn, which was experienced recently.

The monuments on City property at the Rockview entrance to the Vistas and the monuments at the entry to Misty Meadow were discussed and will have additional plantings. The open space area behind Misty Meadow will have additional trees planted as well.

Superintendent Chiotti has been quite responsive to the committee's requests and will continue to work with our association moving forward.

The committee is in the process of developing the 2014 Master Plan. Also, Harvest has continued tree trimming per the schedule work in the current master plan. We will keep you posted on new developments.

Ongoing/Upcoming Projects

1. HOA will be implementing towing from ALL fire lanes throughout the community. All fire lanes are identifiable with signs on each street. A sign at the entrance of the community has the towing company information on it if anyone does get towed and needs to retrieve their towed vehicle.
2. Effective March 1, 2014, the monthly assessments will increase by \$10.00 to \$525.00 per month. The increase will go towards reserves.

Ken's Korner

UR My Valentine...

By Ken Garrison
17 Valley View

For a long time, February was not a very important month in my life. As a matter of fact, in kindergarten and the first couple of grammar school years, the problem was that February *meant* Valentine's Day was near. For a 5-6-7- year old boy, enduring the social and traditional activities associated with Valentine's Day bordered on the *horrible!!!*

First of all, there were those little candy mints that seemed to so intrusively explode on the school room scene in early February. You know, those little heart-shaped candies (all white and pink, ugh -- I hated pink) with that silly writing all over them. Let's see, you remember the kinds of things they said: "I Luv U," "Will U B My Valentine?" "U Make MY Heart Throb," etc. Girls thought that it was really cute to give you a hand full of those things.



Then the teachers would contribute to this "Valentine Conspiracy" by making us cut up construction paper (pink paper of course) into the shape of hearts and doilies. With the help of some more paper cutting and the assistance of the class room's ubiquitous paste pot - shazam -- you had the ingredients for dozens and dozens of "home-made" Valentine Cards. The girls giggled and delighted in giving some of their creations to us boys, and all of us had to take at least one of our individual *Hallmark Specials* home to the delight of our Moms.

Well perhaps you're wondering by now why I've labored to bring you through my earliest recollections of Valentine's Day. Just believe me, I honestly didn't go for that luv-and hearts-and pink stuff -- and I was glad when my Valentine classroom and classmate experiences outgrew the K-12 grade scene. In fact, Valentine's Day just drifted quietly out of my life for many years. And then Valentine's Day came back, and here's the point of my story.

Military, marriage, college, starting a family, starting a business career -- they all came along in adult life although not quite in that orderly sequence. The point, though, is that the first ten

years or so of our marriage were a scrambling - never-enough-money, never-a-spare- moment adventure. Sound familiar??? In our case, somewhere along maybe ten years or so of wedded bliss and chaos we started to come up to breathe a little of life's air -- spend some time -- even if relatively short moments -- with each other. And one of those "moments" has become a special tradition.

Jeanette and I (after six and a half decades she's still my bride) make Valentine's an unbreakable **Annual Date Night**. We make the dinner reservation two weeks in advance, so that we're certain of our preferred 7:00 to 7:30 dining time. We pick one of our preferred spots like Gulliver's or Five Crowns or The Ritz (now fading away?) or Ruth's Chris or LG's if we're in Palm Desert. We specify a quiet corner, which may or may not be honored, but it usually works. Then we settle in for a sip of wine, a leisurely dinner, and *a few moments* together. It's great -- every year it's great.

So like I said, Valentine's Day has evolved into our Annual Date Night. We still celebrate our Anniversary and other occasions, but February 14th every year is reserved for something that has become a little different and very special. Let me ask you, do you have some kind of an Annual Date Night?

Happy Valentine's Day, White Day, Black Day...

By Sue Suesada

We Japanese are known for our pragmatism. One good example is that Christmas is now widely celebrated even though only one percent of the population claim Christian affiliation. Of course, we are also known for "Japanifying" even the most foreign of concepts, transforming them into something unique to fit our needs. Thus, Christmas (Christmas Eve, to be exact) in Japan is celebrated as a *romantic* day, where couples enjoy romantic dinners at upscale restaurants and exchange gifts.

So it is no surprise that we put our own spin on Valentine's Day as well. While Valentine's Day was originally introduced to Japan before World War II, it was not until the 70's that it became popular, thanks to a chocolate manufacturer. Yes, it's still a romantic day in Japan, too, but what's different about it is



that it almost always involves chocolates. AND that it's a day when a woman confesses her affection for another man - never the other way around!

Chocolate manufacturers' strategy worked for them, however, for today, approximately 20% of annual chocolate sales in Japan are made on or right before Valentine's Day (some studies have suggested that the figure is, in fact, even larger).

I remember toiling away for hours to come up with the perfect home-made truffles for my high school boyfriend. I remember how it became a blatant popularity contest, with some boys receiving more chocolates than he knew what to do with and others desperately wishing for just one chocolate but not receiving any. Back then, this also happened in the workplace as well. But grown-ups are (supposedly) less cruel than kids, so women

soon started handing out "courtesy" chocolates to male co-workers just so that no one's feelings would get hurt. Chocolate sales grew even more.

With Japanese women making strides towards greater socioeconomic advancement, however, some began to view this tradition sexist. It was a brilliant move on the part of the confectionery companies to capitalize on this sentiment and come up with a totally made-up day called White Day and promote it as a day when men return the favor by giving women cookies, candies, or even jewelry. Today, White Day, which is celebrated on March 14th, has gained citizenship and has even spread to other Asian countries. Actually, South Korea has taken it one step further, observing "Black Day" on April 14th, where single men and women, who received no gifts on Valentine's Day or White Day, celebrate (or *mourn*, depending on whom you ask) their single life by eating noodles with black bean sauce (this is no doubt a ploy by the noodle industry!).

Me? Well, this brings us back to the topic of us Japanese being pragmatic. Or maybe it's just that *I* am pragmatic. I gently remind

my husband every year that he should not buy me roses on the day they are most expensive. We prefer to eat in, anyway, so the idea of going out to dinner on Valentine's Day never even crosses our minds. My husband definitely does not need chocolates - home-made or otherwise (nor do I, for that matter). Besides, shouldn't every day be celebrated romantically like Valentine's Day? Wouldn't you appreciate roses much more when they're least expected? Wouldn't cookies and chocolates taste better when someone gives them to you because he/she wanted to give them to you (and not because it's the "socially expected" thing to do)?

That said, I hope Ken and Jeanette have a great time at their annual date night. ☺ My husband and I will be spending a quiet evening at home. We might indulge ourselves and catch not one but TWO episodes of *The Wire* (which we are currently binge-watching). Maybe he will surprise me once again with a plate of take-out sushi, on which various rolls were displayed in the shape of a heart (now, that's original, don't you think?).

In any case, I wish everyone a very happy Valentine's/White/Black Day -- every day!

*Joyeux
Anniversaire*

Congratulations to long-time Vista residents (and wonderful volunteers) Betty and Bert Sherron of 26 Rocky Knoll, who celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on January 27th! Please tell us your secret!!!

University High School Stadium Questionnaire: Intermediate Results

Thank you to those who have taken the time to respond to the questionnaire. So far, the results have been overwhelmingly positive. We will wait another month to collect more responses before we tally them up and feed them back to the Irvine Unified School District. You can view the questionnaire in the January 2014 newsletter, now archived at www.trvista.org under "Documents." Please send your responses to mchanglegs@cox.net - with "University High School Stadium" in the subject line. You may also pick up a copy of the newsletter in the mailbox at 7 Valley View and place your hand-written response back in the mailbox as well.